

Well, HELLO THERE, Insiders! So last time, we talked about self-attestation. This means that consumers can provide information in their application without any supporting paperwork and Maryland Health Connection will verify it automatically using electronic databases.

Self-attestation for income will have to meet the *reasonable compatibility standard*. (TomKat, Bennifer, RPatz & KStew, obviously this one doesn't apply to you.) When information obtained through electronic data sources is *reasonably compatible* with the applicant's attestation of income, the attestation is considered verified and may be relied upon by Maryland Health Connection and Medicaid.



Yes, even small victories deserve to be celebrated!

How is the reasonable compatibility standard applied? (I promise, it's easier under the ACA than it is in the dating world.) Let's take a moment to sit down with Allie Applicant, shall we?



Hi, Allie! Way to make us jealous that you can use Maryland Health Connection from the comfort of your own home!

Allie just logged into Maryland Health Connection. She's indicated that her annual income is \$15,000. **But** tax data collected automatically by Maryland Health Connection from the IRS indicates that Allie made \$14,400 last year. Allie clearly got that hard-earned pay raise (Way to go, Allie!), but what happens now? There's a \$600 difference between what she says she makes and what the IRS records indicate. **Allie's in the clear** and doesn't have to submit any paperwork to back up her story because her self-attested statement of income is *reasonably compatible* with what the IRS database indicates!

Attestation (what Allie Applicant tells Maryland Health Connection) and data sources are considered *reasonably compatible* if the difference or discrepancy does not impact the eligibility of the applicant. In Maryland, we will give an applicant 10% "wiggle room" between the amount s/he states as income and what our databases say is his/her income without asking for paper verification. So, as long

as what Allie reports as her income isn't more than 10% different than what our databases say her income is, she's good to go.



Here's the best part! All of these different data sources will provide **real-time information** and allow you to quickly verify what people like Allie have attested to. Thanks to the reasonable compatibility standard, if there is a slight discrepancy between the data available and what the Allie states, Allie's application will still be approved by the system. In a small number of instances, there may be a need for you to get paper verification. However, applicants can send this to you in a variety of ways, so even that won't be too tricky.

Don't forget, you can e-mail me your questions, dhmh.medicaidmarge@maryland.gov. See you next time!